

## Weekly Column for July 22, 2004

So that's where the hot weather has been hiding. I read a story in the Times Union the other day that said the current temperatures were normal for this year. Sure doesn't feel like it. But now the hot weather is here, and will probably be with us for a bit.

I'd like to focus on a bit of recreation this week- specifically basketball and golf. First basketball. Last weekend I had the opportunity to meet Jason and Jarron Collins, two of the finest individuals I have ever had the privilege of meeting.

The Collins twins, who both stand at a whopping seven-feet, are National Basketball Association athletes, and graduates of Stanford University. Watching these two gentlemen interact with the children of Troy made my weekend, and gave me hope that there are people out there giving back to the community in ways you don't expect. I want to thank the AME Zion Church for sponsoring the event.

Jason and Jarron were in Troy for the Collins Twins Basketball camp, and I believe the lessons they taught the kids over the weekend extend well beyond the basketball court. They shared life experiences and gave out advice to many kids who need more positive role models in their lives. It was not something I expected from people making millions of dollars a year. If everyone were as kind, professional, and caring as these two guys the world would be a much better place. For those of you wondering why it takes place in Troy, the twin's father, Paul, grew up here, and the boys used to spend the summers with their grandmother

In a more humorous moment, I had my picture taken with the two giants. For those of you who know me, you understand I am not exactly NBA height ready, which made for quite an amusing photograph. It was a great weekend, and I truly appreciate these guys putting in so much time and effort into helping other people. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who made this possible.

And then there's golf. The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Mayor's Cup Tournament has been scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup> at Frear Park Golf Course. I hope everyone comes out and participates this year; it should be a great event. We have plenty of contests, including a Hole-In-One contest that could win you a new car.

The tournament includes a continental breakfast, lunch buffet, cart, and greens fees for the day. The cost is \$70. It will be especially nice if people that have not played Frear this year come out and see all of the improvements. Now all I need is a ringer for the day, any ideas please call. The money raised during the tournament will benefit the Frear Park Conservancy. For more information please contact Bob Barnes at 235-8993.

That's it for this week. Any other questions, comments, concerns or complaints, you know where to reach me. The number in the Mayor's Office is 270-4401 and you can drop me an e-mail at the Mayor's Office.

Harry J Tutunian